

In the Claims

Please cancel Claim 12, rewrite Claims 11, 13 and 16 and add new Claims 27-34 in their entirety as follows (the changes in these claims from the previous version to the rewritten version are shown in Appendix A, with strikethroughs for deleted matter and underlines for added matter):

a1 ~~11.~~ (Amended) A method of monitoring and managing student activities in an online educational course, the method comprising:

receiving a completed student assignment in electronic form;

associating the completed student assignment with an instructor and storing the completed student assignment in a database; and

generating a grade book for the instructor, wherein generating the gradebook comprises:

displaying grade information for each of a plurality of students in a course section taught by the instructor, wherein the grade book comprises student identification information, grade information for any graded student assignment, and an automated link to any completed student assignment that is ungraded; and

displaying a visual time indicator for each completed student assignment that is ungraded, wherein the visual time indicator represents an elapsed time from a time each ungraded completed student assignment was received.

a2 ~~12.~~ (Amended) The method of Claim ~~11~~, wherein displaying the visual time indicator further comprises increasing a size of the visual time indicator as the elapsed time increases.

a3 ~~13.~~ (Amended) A method of monitoring and managing student activities in an online educational course, the method comprising:

receiving a completed student assignment in electronic form;

associating the completed student assignment with an instructor and storing the completed student assignment in a database;

generating a grade book for the instructor by displaying grade information for each of a plurality of students in a course section taught by the instructor, wherein the grade book comprises student identification information, grade information for any graded student assignment, and an automated link to any completed student assignment that is ungraded; and

presenting an instructor with an assignment grading template in response to receipt of a request via the automated link to an ungraded completed student assignment for a particular student, the assignment grading template providing an automated link to any previously graded student assignment for the particular student, the assignment grading template further comprising an instructor comment section configured to receive instructor comments regarding the completed student assignment.

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27. (New) The method of Claim ¹~~11~~, wherein the visual time indicator comprises a graphical visual time indicator.

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28. (New) The method of Claim ¹~~11~~, further comprising generating a time stamp at the database upon receipt of the student assignment.

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29. (New) The method of Claim ¹~~11~~, further comprising receiving an assignment submission form associated with the completed student assignment.

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30. (New) The method of Claim ⁸~~29~~, wherein the assignment submission form comprises a name of the student, a course name, a section identifier and a task identifier.

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31. (New) The method of Claim ⁶~~28~~, wherein the elapsed time further comprises comparing the time stamp to a time the instructor logs onto a network.

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32. (New) The method of Claim ¹~~11~~, wherein a visibility of the visual time indicator changes to indicate greater urgency as more time elapses.

¹¹
~~33.~~ (New) The method of Claim ~~11~~¹, wherein displaying the visual time indicator comprises changing a size of the visual time indicator after predetermined time increments.

¹²
~~34.~~ (New) The method of Claim ~~11~~¹, further comprising updating the visual time indicator each time the instructor logs onto a network.

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-26 were pending. Claims 1-12 and 17-26 have been canceled, Claims 11, 13 and 16 have been rewritten and Claims 27-34 have been added. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to refile canceled Claims 1-12 and 17-26 in a continuation application. The amendment for Claims 11, 13 and 16 and new Claims 27-34 includes strikethroughs for deleted matter and underlines for added matter in attached Appendix A. The amendments to the claims are supported by the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Information Disclosure Statement

In the Office Action dated December, 12, 2002, the Examiner stated that the information disclosure statement (IDS) filed 12/06/01 fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.98 (b)(2).

Applicants believe the Supplemental IDS the Examiner is referring to is the IDS filed October 31, 2001 not the IDS filed 12/06/01, because the Applicants did not file an IDS in December. In view of the Examiner's response, Applicants have revised the IDS filed October 31, 2001 by including the inventor's name of the pending U.S. Patent Application 09/884,168 in a third supplemental IDS. Applicants hereby submit this IDS with the Amendment. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to accept this third supplemental information disclosure statement.